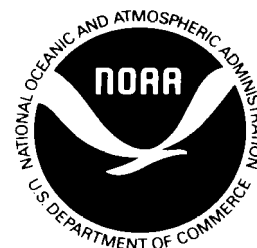


Northeast (NE) Multispecies Regulated Mesh Area Regulations



Unless otherwise noted, the regulations described below apply to fishing vessels issued valid Federal fishing permits or any vessel fishing in Federal waters. (See 50 CFR § 648.4 for Federal fishing permit requirements.) This information sheet is only a summary of applicable fishing regulations and is not a substitute for the actual regulations which can be found at 50 CFR Part 648.

Gulf of Maine (GOM) Regulated Mesh Area:*

The GOM Regulated Mesh Area is bounded on the east by the U.S.- Canada maritime boundary defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
(1)	(1)
43°58'	67°22'
42°53.1'	67°44.4'
42°31'	67°28.1'
42°22'	67°20' (U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary)

⁽¹⁾ The intersection of the shoreline and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary

Bounded on the south by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
42°22'	67°20' (U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary)
42°20'	67°20'
42°20'	69°30'
42°00'	69°30'
42°00'	(1)

⁽¹⁾ The intersection of the Cape Cod, MA, coastline and 42°00' N. Lat.

Georges Bank (GB) Regulated Mesh Area:*

The GB Regulated Mesh Area is bounded on the east by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
42/22'	67/20'
40/24'	65/43'

* Refer to page 6 of this Information Sheet for map.

The GB regulated mesh area is bounded on the west by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
(1)	70/00'
40/50'	70/00'
40/50'	69/40'
40/18.7'	69/40'
40/22.7'	69/00'
(2)	69/00'

⁽¹⁾ South facing shoreline of Cape Cod, MA.

⁽²⁾ Southward to its intersection with the EEZ.

Southern New England (SNE) Regulated Mesh Area:*

The SNE Regulated Mesh Area is bounded on the east by the western boundary of the GB Regulated Mesh Area and bounded on the west by a line beginning at the intersection of 74/00' W. long. and the south facing shoreline of Long Island, NY, and then running southward along the 74/00' W. long. line.

Mid-Atlantic (MA) Regulated Mesh Area:*

The MA Regulated Mesh Area is that area bounded on the east by the western boundary of the SNE Regulated Mesh Area, described above.

GEAR RESTRICTIONS BY REGULATED MESH AREA

All vessels fishing, harvesting, possessing, or landing NE multispecies in or from the EEZ and all vessels holding a Federal NE multispecies permit must comply with the minimum mesh size restrictions identified in the following table (Table 1), unless the vessel is fishing in the MA Exemption Area (defined below), or fishing with exempted gear or fishing in an exempted fishery. Exempted vessels, with respect to the Regulated Mesh Areas, are: Vessels that do not have a Federal NE multispecies permit and are fishing exclusively in state waters; charter, party or private recreational vessels; and vessels fishing with spears, rakes, diving gear, cast nets, tongs, harpoons, weirs, dip nets, stop nets, pound nets, pots and traps, purse seines, mid-water trawls, surf clam/quahog dredge gear, pelagic hook and line, pelagic longline, pelagic gillnet, and shrimp trawls (with properly configured grates).

MA Exemption Area:

Vessels fishing in the MA Exemption Area are exempt from the 5 percent bycatch criteria specifications and may, therefore, fish in a fishery outside of a DAS, provided that they do not possess or land regulated NE multispecies. The MA Exemption Area is that area that lies west of the SNE Exemption Area, i.e., Bounded on the west by a line running from the Rhode Island shoreline

at 41°18.2' N. lat. and 71°51.5' W. long. (Watch Hill, RI), southwesterly through Fishers Island, NY, to Race Point, Fishers Island, NY; and from Race Point, Fishers Island, NY; southeasterly to the intersection of the 3-nautical mile line east of Montauk Point; southwesterly along the 3-nautical mile line to the intersection of 72°30' W. long.; and south along that line to the intersection of the outer boundary of the EEZ.

MA Exemption Area (click image for larger view)

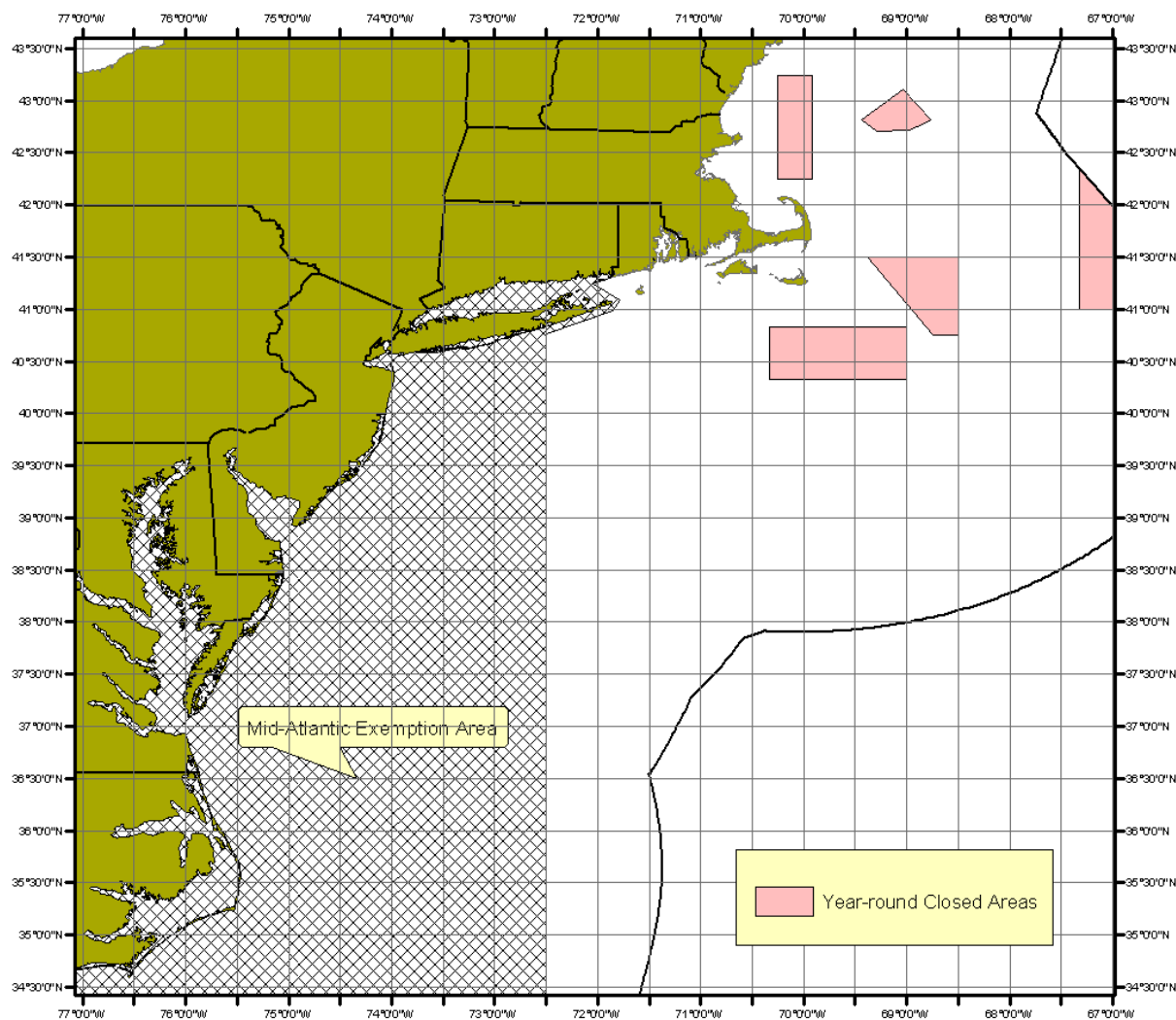


TABLE 1

	Gulf of Maine	Georges Bank	Southern New England	Mid-Atlantic
MINIMUM MESH SIZE RESTRICTIONS FOR GILLNET GEAR				
NE Multispecies Day Gillnet Category*	<u>Roundfish nets</u> 6.5" mesh; 50-net allowance; 2 tags/net	<u>All nets</u> 6.5" mesh; 50-net allowance; 2 tags/net	<u>All nets</u> 6.5" mesh; 75-net allowance; 2 tags/net	<u>Roundfish nets</u> 6.5" mesh; 75-net allowance; 2 tags/net
	<u>Flatfish nets</u> 6.5" mesh; 100-net allowance; 1 tag/net			<u>Flatfish nets</u> 6.5" mesh; 75-net allowance; 2 tags/net
NE Multispecies Trip Gillnet Category*	<u>All nets</u> 6.5" mesh; 150-net allowance; 1 tag/net	<u>All nets</u> 6.5" mesh; 150-net allowance; 2 tags/net	<u>All nets</u> 6.5" mesh; 75-net allowance; 2 tags/net	<u>All gillnet gear</u> 6.5" mesh; 75-net allowance 2 tags/net;
Monkfish Vessels**	10" mesh/150-net allowance			
	1 tag/net			
MINIMUM MESH SIZE RESTRICTIONS FOR TRAWL GEAR				
Codend only mesh size*	6.5" diamond or square		7.0" diamond or 6.5" square	6.5" diamond or square
Large Mesh Category entire net	8.5" diamond or square			7.5" diamond or 8.0" square
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOOKS AND SIZE RESTRICTIONS FOR HOOK GEAR***				
Limited access multispecies vessels	2,000 hooks	3,600 hooks	2,000 hooks	4,500 hooks (Hook gear vessels only)
	No less than 6" spacing allowed between the fairlead rollers			
	12/0 circle hooks required for longline gear			N/A

* When fishing under a NE multispecies DAS

** Monkfish Category C and D vessels, when fishing under a monkfish DAS

*** When fishing under a NE multispecies DAS or when fishing under the Small Vessel permit

For vessels greater than 45 feet in length overall, a diamond mesh codend is defined as the first 50 meshes counting from the terminus of the net, and a square mesh codend is defined as the first 100

bars counting from the terminus of the net. For vessels 45 feet or less in length overall, a diamond mesh codend is defined as the first 25 meshes counting from the terminus of the net, and a square mesh codend is defined as the first 50 bars counting from the terminus of the net.

TRANSITING

Closed Areas:

NE Multispecies Seasonal GOM Rolling Closure Area, Cashes Ledge Closure Area, Georges Bank Seasonal Closure Area, Western GOM Closure Area, Nantucket Lightship Closed Area and Closed Area I:

Vessels may transit these areas during the closure periods, provided that their gear is stowed in accordance with the regulations (see stowage provisions summarized below).

Closed Area II:

Vessels may transit Closed Area II for safety reasons, provided the operator has determined that there is a compelling safety reason and that fishing gear is stowed in accordance with the regulations.

Regulated Mesh Areas:

GOM and GB Regulated Mesh Areas:

Vessels may transit through the GOM/GB Regulated Mesh Areas with nets on board with mesh smaller than the minimum regulated mesh size with small-mesh exempted species on board, provided that the small mesh nets are stowed in accordance with the regulations.

STOWAGE PROVISIONS

Trawl gear stowage requirements -

Vessels must stow nets so that they are not available for immediate use according to one of the following specifications:

- < A net stowed below deck, provided: It is located below the main working deck from which the net is deployed and retrieved; the towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net; and it is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference;
or
- < A net stowed and lashed down on deck, provided: it is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference; it is securely fastened to the deck or rail of the vessel; and the towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net;
or
- < *For vessels transiting the GOM Rolling Closure Areas and the GB Seasonal Closure Area:* If net that is on a reel and is covered and secured, provided: The entire surface of the net is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material that is securely bound; the towing wires are detached from the doors; and no containment rope, codend tripping device, or other mechanism to close off the codend is attached to the codend;
or
- < Nets that are secured in a manner authorized in writing by the Regional Administrator.

Scallop dredge vessels -

Scallop dredge vessels must detach the towing wire from the scallop dredge, reel the wire up onto the winch, and secure and cover the dredge so that it is rendered unusable for fishing.

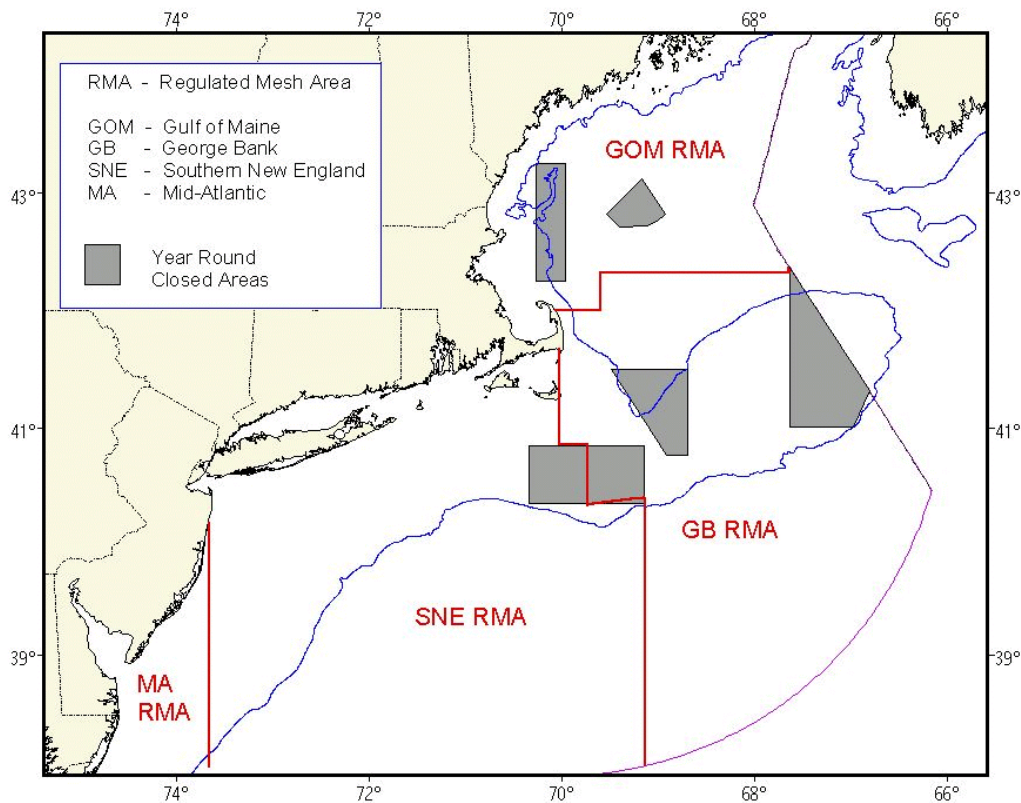
Hook gear vessels -

Hook gear vessels using gear other than pelagic hook gear must secure all anchors and buoys, and have all hook gear, including jigging machines, covered.

Sink gillnet vessels -

Sink gillnet vessels must cover all nets with canvas or other similar material and lash or otherwise securely fasten the nets to the deck or rail, and must have all buoys larger than 6 inches in diameter, high flyers and anchors disconnected.

(click image for larger view)



This is a simplified summary of the measures in effect under the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. You should also get a copy of the official rules as published in the [Federal Register](#).